

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-02 TRSE-00
H-02 INR-10 INT-05 IO-14 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSF-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /150 R

DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/OCA:JBROWN:JB
APPROVED BY OES/OFA/OCA:RTSCULLY
EA/TIMBS:ECHEKY
NEA/INS:JGRAHAME
CNO:CIRWIN
EA/RA:MEILAND

-----075391 102302Z /21

O P 102153Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY
CNO WASHDC 0026
SECDEF WASHDC 0103
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII 0095
CINCPACFLT HONOLULU HAWAII
OMSC WASHDC
USNAVOFF SINGAPORE
COMNAVSEASYS COM WASHDC
USNS SEALIFT MEDITERRANEAN

UNCLAS STATE 091732

COMNAVSEASYS COM FOR SUPSALV

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, ID, IN, XB, XD, XC
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SUBJECT: SEALIFT MEDITERRANEAN GROUNDING

1. THE MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND TANKER SEALIFT MEDI-
TERRANEAN GROUNDED ON A CORAL REEF OFF RONDO ISLAND, SOME
31 NAUTICAL MILES NORTH OF SUMATRA, ON APRIL 2, 1978,
RELEASING SOME 5000 BARRELS OF BLACK OIL. IT IS NOW

ANCHORED WITH OIL BOOMS CONTAINING ANY FURTHER SPILL. NAVY CONTRACTOR OUT OF SINGAPORE IS EFFECTING REPAIRS, AND PLANS CALL FOR LIGHTERING REMAINING CARGO OFF VESSEL APRIL 11.

2. CONTRACTOR'S AIRCRAFT HAS LOCATED FOUR PATCHES OF OIL SOME ONE TO TWO MILES IN DIAMETER LOCATED IN THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

A. 70 MILES NORTH OF RONDO ISLAND AND 70 MILES EAST OF GREAT NICOBAR ISLAND

B. 76 MILES NORTHWEST OF RONDO ISLAND AND 17 MILES EAST OF GREAT NICOBAR ISLAND

C. 22 MILES NORTHWEST OF RONDO ISLAND

D. 8 MILES EAST NORTHEAST OF RONDO ISLAND

3. SCIENTISTS OF NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION RECOMMEND UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, NOTING THE GREAT DEPTH OF WATER WHERE THE SPILLS ARE LOCATED, THAT CHEMICAL DISPERSANTS BE USED TO DISSIPATE THE SPILLS BEFORE DANGER OF STRIKING THE SHORE. NAVY ADVISES THAT ABOUT 150 DRUMS OF DISPERSANT COULD BE APPLIED BY TWO SMALL VESSELS IN ABOUT 48 HOURS. DEPARTMENT WILL ADVISE WHEN EXACT NATURE OF DISPERSANT KNOWN.
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4. IN VIEW OF SOME DIFFERENCES OF OPINION INTERNATIONALLY AS TO THE DANGERS TO RESOURCES ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF CHEMICAL DISPERSANTS, WHILE NOTING THAT SPILLS ARE PRESENTLY LOCATED ON THE HIGH SEAS, IT IS FELT DESIRABLE TO ASCERTAIN VIEWS OF APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES IN JAKARTA AND NEW DELHI. POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES, ASCERTAIN THEIR VIEWS ON THE USE OF DISPERSANTS, AND NOTIFY DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATE. VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: SENV, ID, IN, XB, XD, XC
To: JAKARTA NEW DELHI
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